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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SERIAL No. : 10/706,558 CONFIRMATION No.: 6911  
APPLICANT : Smith et al.  
FILED : November 11, 2003  
ART UNIT : 3727  
EXAMINER : Not yet known  
  
DOCKET NO : 188/1  
CUSTOMER NO : 36829

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

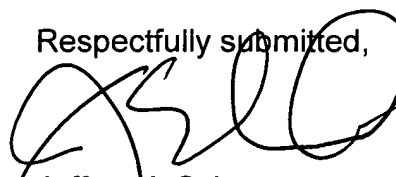
**STATUS REQUEST**

Sir:

The undersigned filed the above-referenced patent application on November 11, 2003. The undersigned received the corrected Filing Receipt from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 10, 2004, but as of this date, has not received any other correspondence in reference to the application.

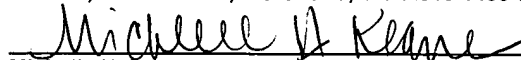
It is therefore respectfully requested that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office reply to the undersigned as to the status of the above-referenced matter.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: January 11, 2005.

  
Michelle H. Keane

January 11, 2005  
Date